

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 5, AMEND claims 1-4, and 6-10, and ADD new claims 11-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of supporting computer-implemented method for directing a computer system to support a trade of securities, the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering; (b)~~

~~processing in the computer system buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market; (c)~~

~~acquiring identifying a trade price at which the buying and selling orders are have been executed at said processing step (b) in the secondary market; (d)~~

~~determining whether the identified trade price acquired at said acquiring step (c) meets is below the suggested offering price; (e)~~

~~checking whether the present date and time is within the subscription period; and (f)~~

~~placing a buying or selling order in a computer system at a price that is within an allowable range around the suggested offering price, when said determining step (d) has revealed an excessive difference between that the trade price and is below the suggested offering price, and only when said checking step (e) has determined that the present date and time is within the subscription period; and~~

~~repetitively placing an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals, after the buying order has been placed.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~acquiring step (e) acquires~~ identifying of the trade price identifies an opening price of the securities that has been reached in an opening session.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said placing ~~step (f)~~ of the buying order obtains a cumulative sum of pending offers whose prices are equal to or lower than the suggested offering price, and places a buying order at the suggested offering price in an attempt to purchase as many securities as the obtained cumulative sum of the pending offers, if the opening price is lower than the suggested offering price.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said placing ~~step (f)~~ of the buying order obtains a cumulative sum of pending bids whose prices are equal to or higher than the suggested offering price, and places a selling order at the suggested offering price in an attempt to sell as many securities as the obtained cumulative sum of the pending bids, if the opening price is higher than the suggested offering price.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1,
wherein~~[[:]]~~ the ~~suggest~~ suggested offering price is given as an allowable range of prices between a minimum price and a maximum price as designated in a prospectus; and
wherein said placing ~~step (f)~~ places the buying ~~or~~ selling order at a predetermined price in accordance with an average price of the securities.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said placing ~~step (f)~~ places the buying ~~or~~ selling order, while controlling ~~the~~ a total number of offered securities, so as not to exceed ~~the~~ a number of new securities for sale in the public offering.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said placing ~~step (f)~~ places the buying ~~or~~ selling order, while controlling ~~the~~ a total number of offered securities, so as not to exceed ~~the~~ a number of existing securities and new securities for sale in the public offering.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for supporting a trade of securities, comprising: (a) storage means for storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering; (b)

trade processing means for processing buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market; (e)

trade price acquisition means for ~~acquiring~~ identifying a trade price at which the buying and selling orders ~~are executed by said trade processing means~~ have been executed in the secondary market; (d)

price evaluation means for determining whether the ~~acquired~~ identified trade price ~~meets~~ is below the suggested offering price; (e)

subscription period checking means for checking whether the present date and time is within the subscription period; and (f)

trading order placement means for placing a buying ~~or selling order at a price that is within an allowable range around the~~ suggested offering price, when said price evaluation means has found ~~an excessive difference between that~~ the trade price ~~and is below~~ the suggested offering price, and only when said subscription period checking means has determined that the present date and time is within the subscription period, and for repetitively placing an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for supporting a trade of securities, the program causing a computer system to function as: (a)

storage means for storing a record of a public offering of a new set of securities, the record containing a suggested offering price of the securities and a subscription period of the public offering; (b)

trade processing means for processing buying and selling orders for the securities in a secondary market; (e)

trade price acquisition means for ~~acquiring~~ identifying a trade price at which the buying and selling orders ~~are executed by said trade processing means~~ have been executed in the secondary market; (d)

price evaluation means for determining whether the ~~acquired~~ identified trade price ~~meets~~ is below the suggested offering price; (e)

subscription period checking means for checking whether the present date and time is within the subscription period; and (f)

trading order placement means for placing a buying ~~or selling order at a price that is within an allowable range around the~~ suggested offering price, when said price evaluation means has found ~~an excessive difference between that~~ the trade price ~~and is below~~ the

suggested offering price, and only when said subscription period checking means has determined that the present date and time is within the subscription period, and for repetitively placing an additional buying order for a predetermined quantity at the suggested offering price at predetermined intervals.

11. (New) At least one computer readable medium storing instructions to control at least one computer to perform a method of trading securities, said method comprising:

determining whether a date and a time are within a trading subscription period;

placing one of a buying and selling order at a selected trade price, if the date and the time are within the trading subscription period when the selected trade price falls in a range between a minimum and a maximum trade price as designated in a secondary market; and

if the selected trade price is not in a range between a minimum and a maximum trade price, countering with an adjusted trade price within the minimum and maximum trade price for placing one of a new buying order and a new selling order.

12. (New) The at least one computer readable medium according to claim 11, wherein the adjusted selected trade price is for a buying order based on obtaining a cumulative sum of trade prices lower than the minimum price.

13. (New) The at least one computer readable medium according to claim 11, wherein the adjusted selected trade price is for a selling order based on lowering the trade price.